

APPENDIX C

ORDERS

The scout platoon leader normally issues instructions to his platoon in the form of the five-paragraph OPORD as discussed in Chapter 2 of this manual. He derives much of the content of that order from the higher order he received during execution of the troop-leading procedures.

When the higher headquarters issues a complete five-paragraph OPORD, breaking down the higher order is fairly straightforward. Commanders, however, do not always have the time to issue a full OPORD; instead, they may have to issue a simplified matrix order. Additionally, in some units, scouts receive their missions from the R&S plan rather than from an OPORD.

Because of these factors, the scout platoon leader must be familiar with the format of matrix orders and R&S plans and be able to convert these into platoon OPORDs. He should always plan to issue a five-paragraph order when time permits. When time is short, he still issues an OPORD, but he does so in an abbreviated FRAGO format.

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Section I. MATRIX ORDERS

Matrix orders, used as an alternative to the standard five-paragraph OPORD, expand on the execution matrix found on many operations overlays. They reduce the time needed to produce the order, thus giving subordinates more time for reconnaissance, preparation, and rehearsal.

There is no standard format for matrix OPORDs. They are normally short, only one or two pages, and include a sketch of the operation. They also include all signal information for a particular day of operations. The entire order can be placed in the corner of a map case for easy reference.

Matrix orders are not stand-alone documents; they are usually issued with standard operations, intelligence, and fire support overlays. They also should be accompanied by an oral discussion of the commander's intent and the scheme of maneuver.

Every unit that uses matrixes, either as part of a five-paragraph OPORD or as a separate matrix order, will have a different format. It is the responsibility of the scout platoon leader to determine if his commander will use matrixes and what format he will use. The scout platoon leader then must convert the information contained in the matrix order into a five-paragraph platoon order. He should not issue matrix orders to the platoon.

Figures C-1 and C-2 illustrate two examples of matrix orders. Figure C-1 is a battalion order. This format is read vertically; the sixth column addresses the organization and requirements of the scout platoon. Figure C-2 is an example of a troop matrix order (see pages C-4 and C-5). It is read horizontally, with each line addressing the requirements of a scout or tank platoon.

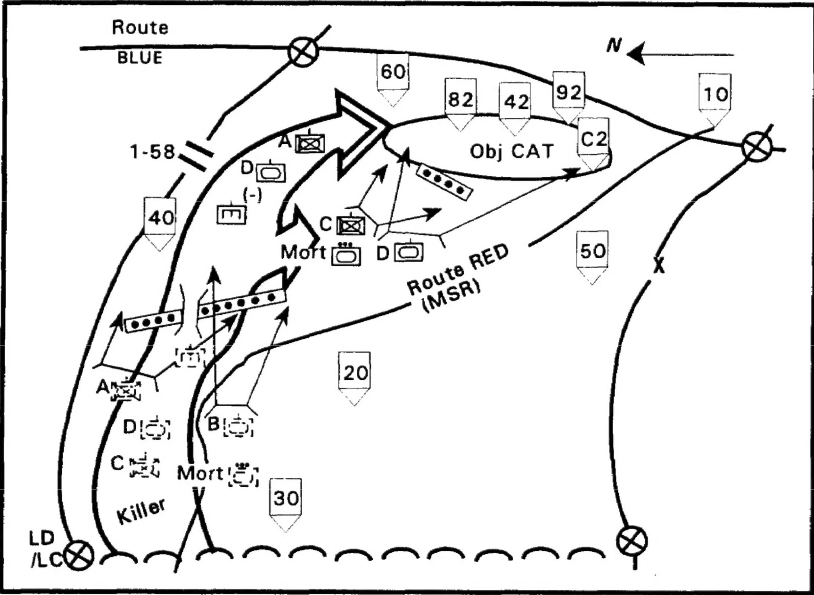


Figure C-1A. Example battalion matrix order.

OPORD 4-3A

TASK ORGANIZATION:		CLASSIFICATION		RTC		
		☒ CONF	☒ MTR	☐	☐	
SITUATION: ENEMY (STRENGTH, WEAPONS, SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY, EQUIPMENT) ENEMY HAS WITHDRAWN TO DEFEND MC BRANDENBURG STATION (7502), ELEMENTS OF 4 MRD IN HASTY DEFENSE POS. TO DELIBERATE. 65% STANET. BMP2 / T72 EQUIP. FRIENDLY (LEFT, RIGHT, FRONT, REAR); 2-14 CAV CONDUCTS RECON SADDLE TO BIT. A TROOP (LEFT) ZONE RECON, A / 1-72 AR (RIGHT) AWAIT TO CONTACT TERRAIN AND WEATHER:						
		E ILLUM:	DUNT:	GENT:		
MISSION: E TROOP CONDUCTS A ZONE RECON AT 2130 FROM PL SADDLE TO PL BIT TO SECURE A LB FOR 1 BDE 82 ID						
COMMANDER'S INTENT: TO ENSURE TRAFFICABILITY OF ROUTES IN SECTOR AND IDENTIFY ANY ENEMY WHICH MIGHT HINDER 1 BDE MOVE TO PL BIT MUST BE SET OF BIT NLT 0600.						
UNIT	EVENT	AA TO A SADDLE	SADDLE TO SAUR	SAUR TO BRIDLE	BRIDLE TO BIT	
COMPARTMENT	MACH	SET LB	ZONE RECON	ZONE RECON	ZONE RECON % STANET	B/P CONT RECON N.
1 PLATOON	SP2100	SET SADDLE	ZONE RECON HASTY RT RECON RTB	RECON ZONE TO 210 CP F	RECON % STANET	B/P CONT. RECON N.
2 PLATOON	2	SET SADDLE	ZONE RECON CPL	RECON ZONE CP J	RECON % STANET	"
3 PLATOON	4	SET SADDLE	ZONE RECON HASTY RT RECON BLDG	ZONE RECON RT BLDG	RECON % STANET	"
MTR	3	NOTICE 885907	ONE L	ONE J		Displace under FIST control
XO / TDC	6	NOTICE 712910				Displace under XO control B/P TO (COORD) AND PAC. 6 BDE
MEDIC CST TNS UNIT	5	NOTICE 880907	RECON 880915	NOT SUB L-01 880915		
FINES: 2 / 72 FA DS-5000	TARGET	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	TRIGGER	RESPONSIBILITY	
PRIORITY	PRIORITY 1(2)(3)	AB00001	TNA			1 PLT
1, 2, 3	C, TNS, BMD, WBL	"				1 PLT
		"				2 PLT
		"				2 PLT
IPS	CBS	"				2 PLT
None	None	"				3 PLT

TURN IN PLT TARGETS PRIOR TO 2000 TO FIST (200)

Figure C-2A. Example troop matrix order.

CLASSIFICATION				
OBSTACLES: 4/A		TYPE	LOCATION	RESPONSIBILITY
PRIORITY OF SUPPORT: MOB, C-MOB, SURV		PRIORITY OF EFFORT: AT AED, BLUE		
SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS: NONE				
COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS: (MARCH INST, REPORTS, FORMATIONS) RETURN ALL CONTROL MEMBERS RA/TA: LOC OF ENEMY AICAD			REC: NONE	ABA: NONE HORN: RED STAT: HOLD
ACTIONS ON CONTACT: (PHYSICAL, VISUAL, INDIRECT, AERIAL, NBC) DESTROY ALL AICAD ELEMENTS: SEE / SMALLER ATTN: INDICATE FIRE AT PA			SL: 1 SO e by	
COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT:				
ENEMY OR CAT TRAINING LOCATION 80575	DECON LOCATION TBA	RESUPPLY TIME: LOCATION: SOP METHOD: RATION CYCLE: C-A-C	BASIC LOAD REQUIREMENTS CL III PACKAGE: CL V (PRE-STOCK): SOP CL IV:	REPAIR PRIORITY C, M, H, D RESUPPLY PRIORITY V, W, X, Y
CHRG LOCATION 803750		NER: AT AED	EMERGENCY RESUPPLY: N/A	
MEDICAL EVAC PLAN: (AMP, FAS, BAG, MODE OF TRANSPORT, MIA, KIA)				
EPM PLAN: Hold to A BIT → ISL → CBT TMS → SQDN TMS				
COMMAND AND SIGNAL:				
COM WITH:	RE WITH:	CHAIN OF CMD:	TF CMD:	TF TOC:
			SOI	(CODE WORDS)
FA CALL SIGN: BLK 1 FREQ:	MONTAR CALL SIGN: BLK 2 FREQ:	MEDEVAC CALL SIGN: 7 MIKE FREQ: 2060	SIGNALS CHALLENGE: PASSWORD: AJ: HIGHWIRE FREQ:	
REVERSE PLANNING SCHEDULE:			OPERATION SKETCH / NOTES	
TRP ORDER 1830 SP 2100 LD 2130				
TIME NOW:				

Figure C-2B. Example troop matrix order (continued).

Section II. RECONNAISSANCE AND SURVEILLANCE PLANS

In the battalion task force, reconnaissance or surveillance operations must often be accomplished before the battalion order is issued. The reconnaissance effort of the scout platoon becomes an integral part of the battalion orders process. As early as possible, the battalion S2 and S3 will issue the R&S tasks of the battalion in the form of an R&S plan. This plan then becomes the basis of the scout platoon leader's OPORD.

The R&S plan is not a complete document for the scout platoon leader's purposes, but it does contain the key elements necessary for him to begin his planning. The scout platoon leader should still get oral guidance from both the commander and the S3 as well as coordinate with other key staff officers as discussed in [Chapter 2](#)

There are two components to the R&S plan: the R&S tasking order and the R&S overlay. The scout platoon leader usually receives the tasking order orally with a copy of a tasking matrix. At the same time, he receives his copy of the R&S overlay. The tasking matrix simply states the specific R&S requirements of the scout platoon and other R&S assets (see [Figure C-3](#)). The R&S overlay, the key to successful execution of the plan, has two components. The graphic display illustrates critical target areas and shows exactly where the R&S assets should be deployed. Included in the marginal data the second part of the overlay, are the legend, administrative data, specific unit instructions, and the distribution list (see [Figure C-4](#), page C-8).

Section III. FRAGMENTARY ORDERS

The FRAGO is a brief oral or written order. It serves any of the following purposes:

- It implements timely changes to existing orders.
- It provides pertinent extracts from more detailed orders.
- It provides instructions as a detailed order is developed.
- It provides specific instructions to subordinates who do not require a complete order.

There is no specific format for a FRAGO, but it normally contains these elements:

- Changes to task organization.
- Situation.
- Concept.
- Fire support.
- Coordinating instructions.

[illegible]

Figure C-3. R&S tasking matrix.

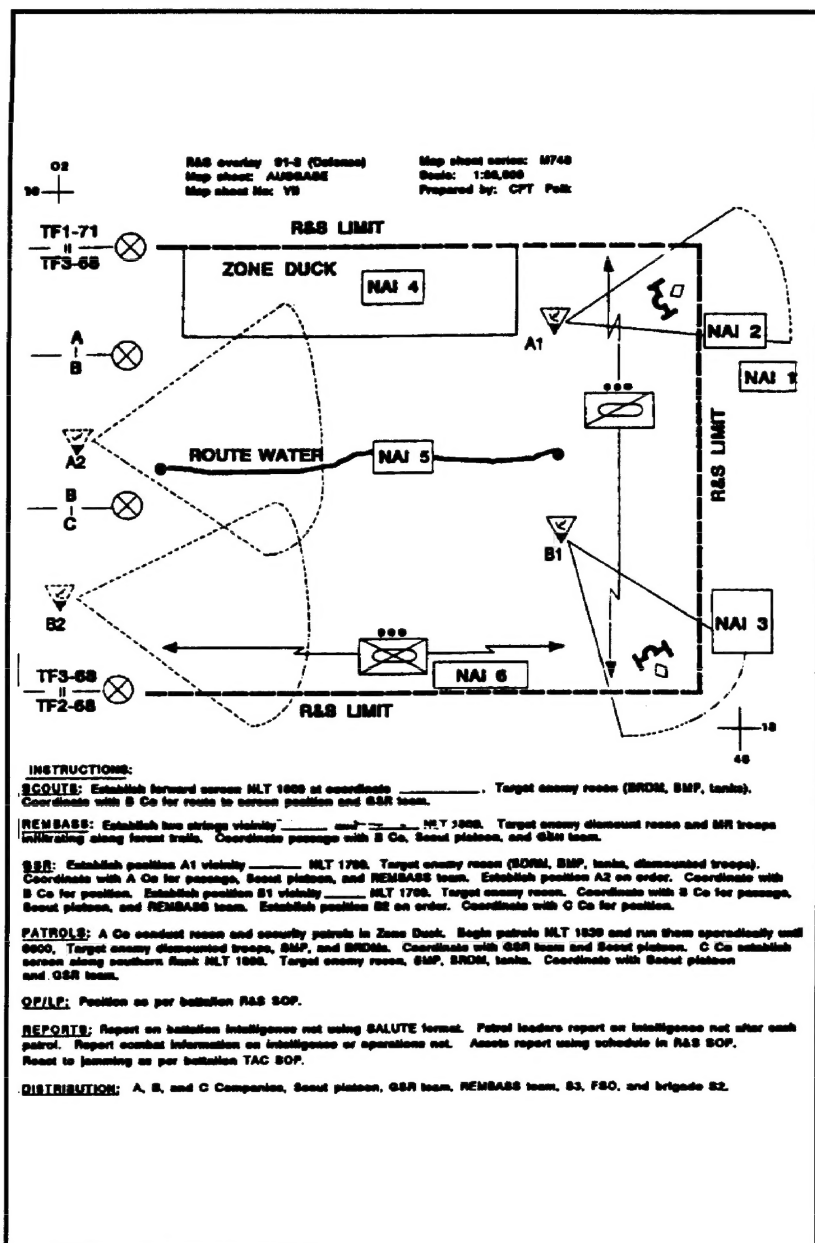


Figure C-4. R&S overlay with marginal data.

MISSION ORDERS

Mission orders are a type of FRAGO that a platoon leader uses when the situation requires a rapid change of mission and immediate maneuver. They contain a task and the purpose of the task. The task tells the subordinate what he is to do. The platoon leader tells his scouts the purpose of the task so they can use their initiative to take all necessary actions to ensure mission success.

The following is an example of a mission order sent over a secure platoon net:

“TEAM A ESTABLISHES AN OP VICINITY OF CHECK-POINT 7A TO OBSERVE ALL ENEMY MOVEMENT ALONG AVENUE OF APPROACH TWO.”

SADDLE ORDERS

Saddle orders are issued face-to-face by the commander or leader when visiting or accompanying subordinates. Ideally, they are issued from a position that overlooks the terrain on which the operation will take place. The saddle order is normally the preferred type of FRAGO because the platoon leader can see the area of operations.

The following is an example of a saddle-type FRAGO given by a platoon leader to a team leader:

“I WANT YOU TO ORGANIZE A RECON PATROL—MOVE FORWARD ALONG THE LOW GROUND BY THE CREEK TO RECON THOSE TWO HILLTOPS AND THE DEAD SPACE BEYOND THEM-TROOP MORTARS ARE IN SUPPORT, AND YOU HAVE PRIORITY OF FIRE IF YOU MAKE CONTACT.”